Computer Science Graduate Program Academic Integrity Guideline

The Computer Science Department takes the issue of academic integrity very seriously. The University, in its pursuit of the advancement of knowledge, has two intertwined missions: research, the development of new ideas, and teaching, the communication and refinement of these ideas. These missions require an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. This document explains how the University's policy on academic integrity (Indiana University Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct) applies to computer science courses. Additional considerations which apply to graduate research activities are detailed in the document *Integrity in Graduate Study* available from the Graduate School.

In the university research environment, the most productive work is rarely created by single individuals working alone. Rather, collaboration has been found to be the most productive mode of operation for all kinds of scholarly activities. However, appropriate credit is to be given to all the participants in collaborative work. Furthermore, new research work rarely stands without foundation; it is usually derived from previously reported research. In these cases, the original work is to be cited.

In the university teaching environment, students are partners in the educational enterprise. The same deference is shown for other students' ideas as is shown for researchers' ideas. Collaborative work may be encouraged; many students find that their learning is enhanced during discussions with other students. However, when such collaboration occurs, all of the participants are to be acknowledged (i.e. their names written on the resulting work). Similarly, in a paper that uses ideas developed by another person, the original author is to be cited (e.g. in a footnote). When ideas that were invented by another individual are used in a program, the original inventor is to be cited (i.e. in the program documentation).

What is to be encouraged:

- Turning in work that is done alone or with the help of the course staff.
- Turning in one assignment for a group of students, when group work is permitted.
- Discussion of coursework with other students, unless explicitly disallowed, and then separately writing up or implementing the details of solutions with acknowledgment of the other students involved in the discussion.

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The work of others that is submitted and appropriately acknowledged is never, of itself, cheating; but it may not earn you any credit for the assignment.

What is considered academic dishonesty and a serious breach of trust includes, but is not limited to:

- Cheating: Turning in someone else's work as your own, even with the permission of the original author.
- Cheating: Facilitating someone else to turn in your work as his or her own.
- Plagiarism: Turning in work without proper acknowledgment of the sources of the content contained within the work.
- Stealing the exam paper or other course material
- Altering or interfering with grading
- Submit work with false or forged information/data
- Damaging other's work
- Deceiving an instructor or university official, for example, by claiming illness or family emergency
- Forging signature on document
- Offering bribes to gain academic advantage

What are the consequences of academic dishonesty?

The ordinary departmental level penalty for cheating is failure in the course and notification of the department chair, with copies to the student, dean of the School of Informatics and Computing, dean of the student's school, and Dean of Students. University may enforce additional sanctions, especially for repeated offenses. Besides facing the sanction at the university and school level, the student will no longer be eligible for the guaranteed financial aid provided by the CS program. In all cases, the penalty will be more severe than not turning in the assignment. For more information, consult the Indiana University Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct, which is the final authority on matters involving academic misconduct.

The Computer Science Department holds the need for academic integrity and the proper respect for ideas and authorship in the highest regard. As partners in the enterprise of scholarship, students are similarly to practice such respect.

The Department also recognizes that issues of integrity and professional responsibility are life-long and calls your attention to the ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

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